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## From Vicksburg to Cedar Creek: The 22nd Iowa Infantry in the Civil War

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rival Chicago, non-Mormons in the area began to resent their new neighbors' influence and unusual habits. By chapter four, "Everybody Hates the Mormons," the seeds of conflict have sprouted. Chapter six, "The Perversion of Sacred Things," reveals the deep discord that affected life in and around Nauvoo. Conflict over plural marriage pitted Mormons against Mormons as well as non-Mormons. Smith's destruction of an opposition newspaper put him at odds with the nation's fundamental belief in the freedom of the press and might have done as much as anything to precipitate his demise. As tensions rose, Smith declared martial law in Nauvoo, which ultimately yielded a charge of treason that landed him in jail in Carthage, the county seat. A vigilante mob stormed the prison and killed Smith and his brother Hyrum, a potential successor. In Beam's telling, Smith foresaw his demise and viewed his opponents as wishing to crucify him. He casts Thomas Ford, governor of Illinois, as Pontius Pilate, the secular figure unwilling to stop a vigilante "crucifixion," carried out in this case by firearms. Two chapters discuss how the Mormons responded to the murders and their aftermath. Beam helps his readers by providing a summary of Mormon history and theology early in the book.

Beam, a journalist and writer who has published two novels and several works of nonfiction, tells the story in lively, engaging prose that should appeal to both general and academic audiences. He presents an admirably balanced treatment of conflicts in which each side has been vilified. Mormon scholars likely will not find much new here. Readers interested in antebellum midwestern history might, especially if they have not paid much attention to Mormon history. Labeling Joseph Smith's death a "crucifixion" bends the word's meaning and stands to generate controversy by likening Smith to Jesus Christ. Whatever shortcomings might attach to Beam's usage, it fits on enough levels to inspire thoughtful reconsideration of how religion, society, and government intersected on the Illinois frontier in the 1840s.

*From Vicksburg to Cedar Creek: The 22nd Iowa Infantry in the Civil War*, by Thomas P. McKenna. Iowa City: Camp Pope Publishing, 2014. 220 pp. Illustrations, maps, glossary, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$28.95 hardcover, \$18.95 paperback.

Reviewer Kenneth L. Lyftogt is a lecturer in history at the University of Northern Iowa. He is the author of several books on Iowa and the Civil War, including *Iowa's Forgotten General: Matthew Mark Trumbull and the Civil War* (2005).

Few Civil War regiments have a story to compare with that of the 22nd Iowa Infantry, which served in both the Western and Eastern theaters of the war, with a battle record as gallant and as tragic as any. The 22nd

Iowa also gave the state its second Civil War governor, William M. Stone of Knoxville.

Thomas P. McKenna's book is presented on its back cover as "the first comprehensive history of the 22nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry to be published in over 100 years." Although the book is, indeed, the first book on the regiment in over 100 years, it is by no means comprehensive. It is a book about the Civil War that merely uses the 22nd Iowa as a kind of thread to stitch the account together.

McKenna is solid in following the regiment through its remarkable service in brigades, divisions, corps, and armies. That aside, he fills the book with an almost redundant plethora of facts about the war, as if to make the book his own version of *The Life of Billy Yank*. As a result, he loses sight of his purpose, and the reader is forced to extract the story from page after page with scarcely a mention of the 22nd Iowa.

A Civil War regiment was a dynamic fusion of personalities and politics. Each company in a regiment was made up of hometown friends and neighbors. Who were the soldiers in the ranks of the 22nd Iowa? How and where were they recruited? The 24th Iowa was the "Temperance Regiment," the 40th Iowa was the "Copperhead Regiment." Did the 22nd Iowa have a unique designation? Each regimental officer was a hometown leader with political connections and aspirations for promotion and glory. William Milo Stone commanded the regiment; Harvey Graham was second in command. Who were these officers? Where were they from? Did they have jobs and families? How did they achieve their rank? Were they competitive rivals, or did they respect and cooperate with each other? What were their politics? How did political influence contribute to their service? Iowa had many heroic officers, but William Stone went directly from the Vicksburg battles to the Republican nomination for governor. How did that happen? McKenna gives readers very little on any of this.

The book begins with a preface that contains advice on the use of historical evidence that should be required reading for every history major. The maps are very good, as are the photos. With the glaring exception of the lack of any reference to Iowa's *Roster and Record*, the bibliography is fine. There are quotations from primary sources that do much for the book. Anyone interested in the 22nd Iowa Infantry will want this book, but only as one among other sources. A reader looking for a "comprehensive history" will still have to wait.